

Boston Public Library

# Black is...

Books about the  
African American  
experience

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2021



# BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR



## All Boys Aren't Blue: A Memoir-Manifesto

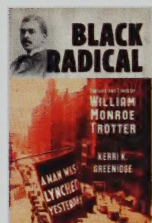


By George M. Johnson

This book is a collection of autobiographical

essays by LGBTQ+ activist and journalist George M. Johnson.

TEEN BIOG HQ76 .A37 J644 2020



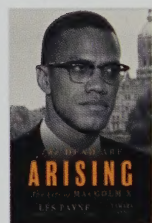
## Black Radical: The Life and Times of William Monroe Trotter

By Kerri K. Greenidge

Harvard-educated William Monroe Trotter edited

Boston's *Guardian*, a weekly newspaper with national influence that helped spread his vision of Black liberation.

BIOG E185.97 .T75 G74 2020x



## The Dead Are Arising: The Life of Malcolm X

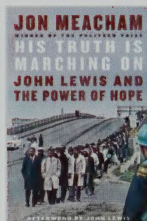


By Les Payne and Tamara Payne

Winner of the 2020 National Book Award for Nonfiction.

Thirty years ago, Les Payne began interviewing anyone he could find who knew Malcolm X in his attempt to correct and supplement the historical record.

BIOG PN487.4 .L565 A3 2020



## His Truth Is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope

By Jon Meacham

This book is the biography of the noted Civil Rights

activist and U.S. Congressman John Lewis, who found inspiration from the Bible, his parents, and his teachers.

BIOG E840.8 .L43 M43 2020



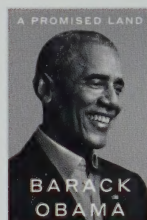
## My Vanishing Country: A Memoir

By Bakari Sellers

In this part memoir, part historical and cultural analysis, CNN political

analyst Bakari Sellers reflects on being raised in a "forgotten" community in rural South Carolina with water, medical, food, and internet issues.

BIOG F275.42 .S45 A3 2020



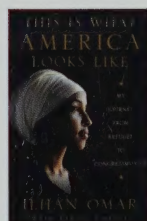
## A Promised Land



By Barack Obama

This is the first volume of his presidential memoirs.

BIOG E905 .A3 2020x



## This Is What America Looks Like: My Journey from Refugee to Congresswoman

By Ilhan Omar

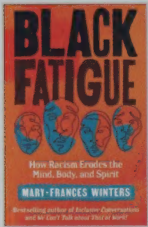
Ilhan Omar arrived in the

United States from a Kenyan refugee camp when she was 12. She worked as a community organizer, graduated from college, and was elected to Congress.

BIOG E901.1 .O43 A3 2020



BLACK LIVES MATTER



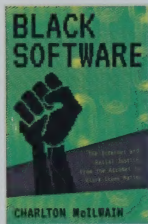
**Black Fatigue: How Racism Erodes the Mind, Body, and Spirit** □

**By Mary-Frances Winters**

*Black Fatigue* describes the impact of systemic racism

on the psychological and physical health of contemporary African Americans.

RC451.5 .N4 W56 2020

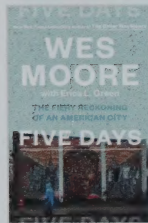


**Black Software: The Internet and Racial Justice, from the AfroNet to Black Lives Matter** □ ◡

**By Charlton McIlwain**

This book describes the roles African Americans played in the creation of the internet and the use of technology to promote racial justice.

P94.5 .A37 M35 2020



**Five Days: The Fiery Reckoning of an American City** □ ◡

**By Wes Moore with Erica L. Green**

The story of the uprising that responded to the death of Freddie Gray is told through the eyes of key Baltimoreans, including a conflicted Baltimore Police captain, Gray's sister, and the owner of the Baltimore Orioles.

HV6483 .B35 M66 2020



**Our Time Is Now: Power, Purpose, and the Fight for a Fair America**

**By Stacey Abrams**

Author and activist Stacey Abrams shares stories of

historic and personal voter suppression.

JK1994 .A37 2020



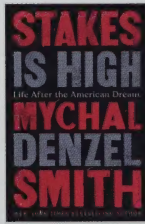
**The Purpose of Power: How We Come Together When We Fall Apart** □ ◡

**By Alicia Garza**

Lifelong organizer

Alicia Garza shares her organizing strategies of forging connections with communities, building multicultural coalitions, and encouraging all sorts of people to fight for change.

HM881 .G37 2020

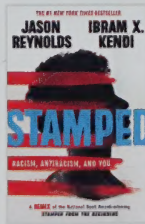


**Stakes Is High: Life After the American Dream**

**By Mychal Denzel Smith**

In a series of essays, the author examines such contemporary questions as patriotism and justice, freedom and inequality, incarceration, and police violence.

HM4821 .S58 2020.



**Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You**

**By Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi**

This book describes how racism started and spread, and how to eliminate it.

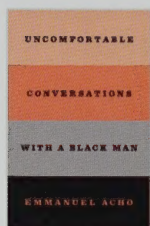
TEEN E184 .A1 R45 2020



**The Talk: Conversations about Race, Love & Truth**  
 Edited by Wade Hudson and Cheryl Willis Hudson

A collection of 30 illustrated essays about self-esteem, identity, and racism.

J E185.61 .T19 2020



**Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man**

By Emmanuel Acho

The author answers large and small questions

about white privilege, cultural appropriation, and color blindness in an open and compassionate way.

HT1521 .A24 2020

## EXPRESSIONS



**Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own**

By Eddie S. Glaude Jr.

The author finds inspiration in the words and deeds of James Baldwin, which help him cope with contemporary America.

E184 .A1 G554 2020



**Finna: Poems**

By Nate Marshall

This collection of poems examines modern life, written in an African American vernacular.

PS3613 .A77555 F56 2020



**Glory: Magical Visions of Black Beauty**

By Kahran and Regis Bethencourt

Using photography and essays, this book celebrates the diverse beauty of Black children, past and present.

TR681 .B52 B48 2020



**Just Us: An American Conversation**

By Claudia Rankine

This collection of essays, commentaries, images, and poems explores the study of whiteness and white supremacy.

E185.86 .R36 2020x



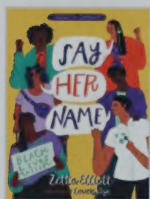
**Make Me Rain: Poems & Prose**

By Nikki Giovanni

Noted African American poet Nikki Giovanni creates poems and essays about injustice, her family and heritage, and contemporary politics.

PS3557 .I55 A6 2020





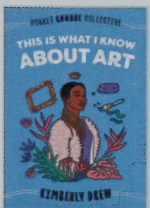
**Say Her Name:  
Poems to Empower**  
By Zetta Elliott

This collection of poems celebrates the creativity, strength, and spirit of African American girls and women.  
TEEN PS3605 .L463 A6 2020



**Sister Outsider:  
Essays and Speeches**  
By Audre Lorde

This book is a reissue and a redesign of the classic collection of nonfiction prose celebrating "difference" in terms of race, gender, and sexuality by the noted poet Audre Lorde.  
PS3563 .075 2020



**This Is What I Know  
About Art** □

By Kimberly Drew  
Writer, curator, and activist Kimberly Drew

explains why art is for everyone.  
TEEN N72 .S6 D69 2020



**Vegetable Kingdom:  
The Abundant World  
of Vegan Recipes**

By Bryant Terry  
Chef and food activist

Bryant Terry teaches readers the basics of vegan cooking using fresh and seasonal ingredients.

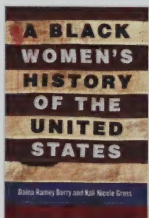
TX837 .T4345 2020



**Woke: A Young Poet's  
Call to Justice**  
By Mahogany L. Browne  
with Elizabeth Acevedo  
and Olivia Gatwood

This book is a collection of poems by women celebrating the joys and passions of the fight for social justice.  
J PS5595 .S75 W65 2020x

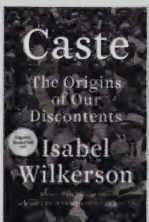
## HISTORY & CONTEMPORARY ISSUES



**A Black Women's  
History of the  
United States** □ ))

By Daina Ramey Berry  
and Kali Nicole Gross

Historians Berry and Gross empower and celebrate the contributions of African American women.  
E185.86 .B475 2020



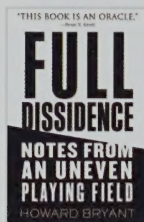
**Caste: The Origins  
of Our Discontents** ))

By Isabel Wilkerson

Using extensive research and interviews, the author analyzes the eight pillars of the caste systems used in the United States, Nazi Germany, and India.  
HT725 .U5 W55 2020

□ available as an e-book

)) available as an audiobook



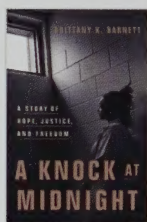
**Full Dissidence:**  
**Notes from an Uneven**  
**Playing Field** 📖

By Howard Bryant

This collection of essays examines the role of

sports today, including player-owner relations, the loss of Black identity, and the myth of integration.

JK1726 .B79 2020



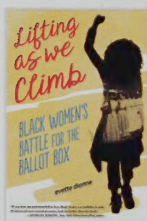
**A Knock at Midnight:**  
**A Story of Hope, Justice,**  
**and Freedom** 📖

By Brittany K. Barnett

This book tells the story of how attorney Brittany K.

Barnett successfully freed single mother and first-time drug offender Sharanda Jones from a life sentence with no parole.

KF373 .B37 2020



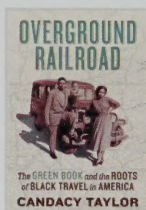
**Lifting as We Climb:**  
**Black Women's Battle**  
**for the Ballot Box** 📖

By Evette Dionne

This book tells the story of the contributions

African American women made to the suffrage movement.

J JF851 .D56 2020x



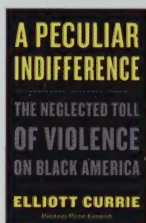
**Overground Railroad:**  
**The Green Book and**  
**the Roots of Black**  
**Travel in America**

By Candacy Taylor

An illustrated history of

*The Green Book*, a segregation-era travel guide that listed hotels, restaurants, gas stations, and other businesses that were safe for African Americans to visit.

E185.61 .T23 2020x



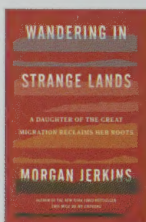
**A Peculiar Indifference:**  
**The Neglected Toll of**  
**Violence on Black**  
**America** 📖

By Elliott Currie

Criminologist Elliott

Currie describes the impact of "everyday" violence on the lives of African American men and women.

E185.615 .C87 12020



**Wandering in Strange**  
**Lands: A Daughter of**  
**the Great Migration**  
**Reclaims Her Roots** 📖

By Morgan Jerkins

Cultural critic

Morgan Jerkins explores her Southern and Northern roots.

E1856 .J47 2020x



## FICTION



### Bedtime Bonnet

By Nancy Redd

African American family members prepare their hair for bedtime.

J PICTURE REDD N



### The Black Flamingo

By Dean Atta

Londoner Michael is part Jamaican and part Greek Cypriot, but feels he is not Black or Greek

enough. He discovers the Drag Society and is reborn as the Black Flamingo.

TEEN FICTION ATTA D



### Black Girl Unlimited: The Remarkable Story of a Teenage Wizard

By Echo Brown

Believing she and her mother are wizards

helps teen Echo cope with her mother's addiction, hunger, and poverty.

TEEN FICTION BROWN E



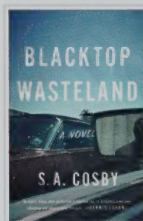
### The Black Kids

By Christina  
Hammonds Reed

Middle-class African American teen Ashley Bennett and her

friends wonder "who is the us and who is the them" during the 1992 Rodney King riots in Los Angeles.

TEEN FICTION HAMMONDS C

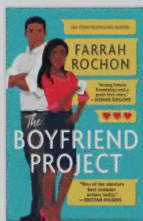


### Blacktop Wasteland

By S.A. Cosby

Retired getaway driver "Bug" Montague is lured by poverty into one last heist.

FICTION COSBY S



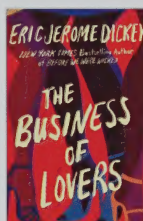
### The Boyfriend Project

By Farrah Rochon

Samiah Brooks' six-month vacation from dating ends when she meets Daniel

Collins, but is he solid boyfriend material?

FICTION ROCHON F



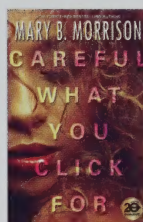
### The Business of Lovers

By Eric Jerome Dickey

Brothers Dwayne and Brick Duquesne are unlucky in their careers

and love. Encounters with a former girlfriend and three entrepreneurial escorts may improve their luck.

FICTION DICKEY E

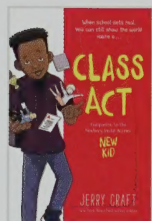


### Careful What You Click For

By Mary B. Morrison

Four Atlanta friends achieve career success but face challenges navigating the online dating scene.

FICTION MORRISON M



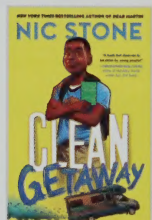
## Class Act

By Jerry Craft

Eighth-grade prep school student Drew Ellis finds it difficult attending school with

his wealthier classmates.

J GRAPHIC CLASS ACT



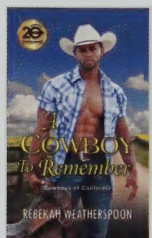
## Clean Getaway

By Nic Stone

After being grounded at home, William "Scoob" Lamar embarks on a mysterious

road trip with his G'ma.

FICTION STONE N



## A Cowboy to Remember

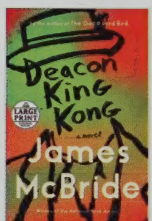
□ 1)

By Rebekah Weatherspoon

Television chef Evie Buchanan has a chance encounter with her old flame,

ex-rodeo star Zach Pleasant.

ROMANCE WEATHERS R



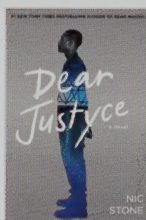
## Deacon King Kong

By James McBride

In September 1969, "Sportcoat," a cranky old Brooklyn church deacon, guns

down the local drug dealer.

FICTION MCBRIDE J



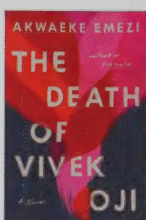
## Dear Justyce

By Nic Stone

Incarcerated teen Quan Banks writes letters to longtime friend Justyce McAllister

about his prison experiences.

TEEN FICTION STONE N



## The Death of Vivek Oji

□ 1)

By Akwaeke Emezi

Raised by a loving mother and distant father in southeastern

Nigeria, Vivek forms close bonds with expatriate women and his cousin Osita.

FICTION EMEZI A



## Everywhere You Don't Belong

By Gabriel Bump

This debut novel tells the story of what it is like to grow up as an African

American on the South Side of Chicago.

URBAN FICTION BUMP G



## Felix Ever After

By Kacen Callender

When transgender teen Felix Love tries to get revenge on an internet bully, he surprisingly

winds up in a love triangle.

TEEN FICTION CALLENDE K





## Hey, Baby! A Baby's Day in Doodles

By Andrea Pippins

Follow a day in the life of a baby using

doodles and color photographs.

J BOARD PIPPINS A



## Hitting a Straight Lick with a Crooked Stick: Stories from the Harlem Renaissance

By Zora Neale Hurston

A collection of eight short stories set during the Harlem Renaissance found in archives after the author's death.

FICTION HURSTON Z



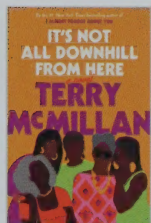
## I Am Every Good Thing

By Derrick Barnes and Gordon C. James

This picture book celebrates African

American boys engaging in work, play, and community activities.

J PICTURE BARNES D



## It's Not All Downhill from Here

By Terry McMillan

Sixty-eight-year-old Loretha Curry believes her best days are not over

despite what her family thinks. After an unexpected tragedy strikes, she depends on her friends to help her thrive.

FICTION MCMILLAN T



## King and the Dragonflies

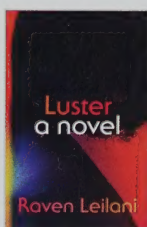
📖

By Kacen Callender

As 12-year-old King mourns the death of his older brother, he wishes

he could confide in his now missing, former best friend Sandy. When Sandy is found hiding in a tent in his backyard, the pair begin an adventure together.

J FICTION CALLENDE K



## Luster

📖

By Raven Leilani

Edie is a floundering African American millennial trying to make sense of her life.

FICTION LEILANI B



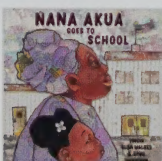
## Memorial

By Bryan Washington

Mike and Benson's relationship is rocky. Mike returns to Japan to tend to his father while his mother comes

to Texas and stays with Benson. How will this impact their relationship?

FICTION WASHINGT B



## Nana Akua Goes to School

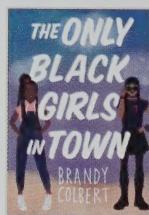
By Tricia Elam Walker and April Harrison

Zura is worried how her class will react to her African grandmother.

J PICTURE WALKER

📖 available as an e-book

🔊 available as an audiobook



## The Only Black Girls in Town □ ))

By Brandy Colbert

Seventh graders Edie and Alberta are the only African American

students in their California beach town. Together they find hidden journals that uncover family secrets.

FIC FICTION COLBERT B



## A Phoenix First Must Burn: Sixteen Stories of Black Girl Magic, Resistance, and Hope □ ))

Edited by Patrice Caldwell

African American girls star in this collection of fantasy, science fiction, and magic stories.

TEEN SCIFI FANTASY PHOENIX FIRST MUST



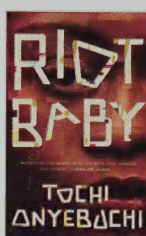
## Real Life □ ))

By Brandon Taylor

Wallace, a shy, queer African American from rural Alabama, is studying science at a Midwestern university.

His life changes after a series of confrontations and a surprise encounter.

FIC FICTION TAYLOR B

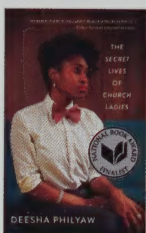


## Riot Baby □

By Tochi Onyebuchi

This work of family and dystopian fiction tells the story of teens Ella and her brother Kev and their experiences with revolution, love, and fury.

SCIFANTASY ONYEBUCHI T



## The Secret Lives of Church Ladies

By Deesha Philyaw

This book is a collection of nine short stories about four generations of women and their

tangled relationships with their church.

FIC FICTION PHILYAW D



## Transcendent Kingdom □ ))

By Yaa Gyasi

A Stanford University graduate student from Ghana narrates the story of his immigrant family's grief, addiction, and depression.

FIC FICTION GYASI Y





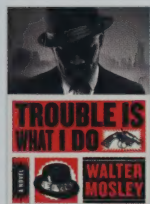
## Tristan Strong Destroys the World

By Kwame Mbalia

Tristan's grandmother is abducted from his family's Alabama

farm. He rescues her with help from African gods and folktale heroes.

J SCIFI FANTASY MBALIA K



## Trouble Is What I Do

By Walter Mosley

A New York private eye gets involved in a case involving an elderly

blues musician, a feared assassin, and a New York society family.

MYSTERY MOSEY W



## The Vanishing Half

By Brit Bennett

A pair of African American identical twin sisters, raised in a small Southern town, separate in this

family saga about racial passing.

FICTION BENNETT B



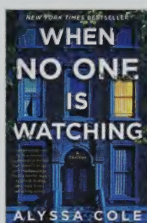
## We Ride Upon Sticks

By Quan Barry

Two co-captains of the 1989 Danvers High School field hockey team—who

just happen to also be descendants of the Salem Witch Trials—use their mysterious powers during an unforgettable season.

FICTION BARRY Q



## When No One Is Watching

By Alyssa Cole

As Sydney Cole's Brooklyn neighborhood is gentrifying overnight,

she and her neighbor Theo conduct walking tours—and discover much more than they bargained for.

FICTION COLE A



**Boston Public Library**

# Black is...

Books about the African American experience | 2021



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**BOSTON  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY**

## **Boston Public Library**

David Leonard, President



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Cover: **Portrait of Zora Neale Hurston**  
Carl Van Vechten, Library of Congress Catalog:  
<http://lcn.loc.gov/2004663047>

The Black is... booklist is a list of recent books concerning the African American experience. It is published as part of the Boston Public Library's observance of Black History Month each year.